

Amendment to the Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method of preparing a light stabilized material comprising a hydrophilic, amphoteric or anionic polymer, or a mixture thereof, having antimicrobial activity comprising the steps of
  - a) preparing a solution comprising an organic solvent and a source of silver in a quantity sufficient to provide a desired silver concentration in said light stabilized material;
  - b) subjecting a hydrophilic, amphoteric or anionic polymer, or a mixture thereof, to said solution for a time sufficient to incorporate the desired silver concentration into said polymer; and
  - c) subjecting ~~said material~~ the hydrophilic, amphoteric or anionic polymer, or a mixture thereof, during or after step (b), to one or more agents which facilitate the binding of said silver into said polymer, wherein the silver is substantially photostable in the light stabilized material upon drying of said material, but will dissociate from the light stabilized material upon hydration of said material.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Canceled)
4. (Canceled)
5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said source of silver comprises a silver salt.
6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 5, wherein said silver salt is selected from the group consisting of silver nitrate, silver chloride, silver sulphates, silver lactate, silver bromide, silver acetate and mixtures of said salts.
7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said one or more agents is selected from the group consisting of ammonium salts, thiosulphates, chlorides and peroxides.
8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 7, wherein said one or more agents is a metal halide.

9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 7, wherein said one or more agents comprises an ammonium salt selected from ammonium chloride, ammonium acetate, ammonium carbonate, ammonium sulphate and mixtures thereof.
10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said polymer is selected from the group consisting of a polysaccharide, a modified polysaccharide, a polyvinylpyrrolidone, a polyvinyl alcohol, a polyvinyl ether, a polyurethane, a polyacrylate, a polyacrylamide, a collagen, a gelatin, and a mixture thereof.
11. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said polymer comprises a polysaccharide selected from a carboxymethylcellulose, an alginate or a mixture thereof.
12. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said organic solvent is selected from the group consisting of industrial methylated spirit, denatured ethanol, methanol, acetone, isopropyl alcohol and ethanol.
13. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the desired silver concentration is between 0.1 and 20 wt%.
14. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the desired silver concentration is between 1 and 20 wt%.
15. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the time sufficient to incorporate the desired silver concentration into the polymer is between 1 and 120 minutes.
16. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the time sufficient to incorporate the desired silver concentration into the polymer is between 1 and 60 minutes.
17. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the polymer in step (c) is subjected to the one or more agents for 5 to 30 minutes.